GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1290
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Nuclear Waste
K. Shri Parasuraman

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government had entered into agreement for setting up nuclear reactors with the cooperation of foreign countries;

(b)Ãf so, the details thereof and whether the Government is also aware about the increasing amount of nuclear waste in case of implementation of these projects;

(c)if so, the details thereof and what is the expected amount of nuclear waste in case of implementation of the nuclear projects by the year 2032; and

(d)the steps proposed by the Government for effective management of nuclear waste?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)Yes, Sir. India has entered into agreement for setting up nuclear reactors with technical co-operation from Russian Federation, United States of America and France.

(b) to (d) The wastes generated at the nuclear power stations during the operation in solid, liquid and gaseous forms are of low and intermediate radioactivity level. These are planned to be managed at the site itself. In this regard waste management facilities are planned to be set up at each of the sites. These wastes are appropriately treated, concentrated and subjected to volume reduction. The concentrates are immobilized in inert materials like cement, bitumen, polymers etc. and stored in specially constructed structures located at the site under monitoring. Typically, the quantity of low and intermediate level waste to be stored at site is about 0.15 cubic meters/year/MW. The treated liquids and gases are diluted and discharged under continuous monitoring, ensuring that the discharges are well within the limits set by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The radioactivity level of the stored wastes reduces with time and by the end of the plant life, falls to very low levels.

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